

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 23, 2008. Claims 48 to 52 are pending in the application, of which Claims 48 and 52 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 48 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,775 (Finseth), and Claims 49 to 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Finseth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,637,029 (Maissel). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a receiving apparatus and method for receiving broadcast programs and associated program information. According to one aspect of the invention, an image generation unit for generating an Electronic Program Guide (EPG) based on the program information is controlled to generate multiple EPG images with a same EPG screen layout according to at least three operation modes. In a normal program selection mode, the EPG image comprises a two-dimensional program table and a selected program window in which program information relating to a broadcast program selected by a user on the two-dimensional program table is displayed. In a recommended program selection mode, the EPG image adds a recommendation index input window to the EPG in the normal program selection mode, in which a recommendation index input by the user for the selected broadcast program is displayed. In this operation mode, a recommendation information including the recommendation index can be exported to an external apparatus which is accessible by another user. In a recommended program

import mode, the program information for the broadcast program recommended by another user is notably displayed on the EPG image in the normal program selection mode.

By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, since a similar layout of EPG is displayed in the three operation modes, a user can conveniently and easily select programs on the EPG and input recommended program information, due to the ease of visually recognizing the EPG.

Referring specifically to claim language, amended independent Claim 48 is directed to a receiving apparatus. The receiving apparatus includes a receiving unit for receiving a television broadcasting signal in which video signals of a plurality of broadcast programs and program information of the plurality of broadcast programs are multiplexed. The apparatus further includes an image generation unit for generating an Electronic Program Guide (EPG) image based on the program information. In addition, the apparatus includes a control unit for controlling the image generation unit so as to generate a plurality of EPG images with a same EPG screen layout according to at least three operation modes comprising a normal program selection mode, a recommended program selection mode and a recommended program import mode. The EPG image in the normal program selection mode comprises a two-dimensional program table and a selected program window in which program information relating to a broadcast program selected by a user on the two-dimensional program table is displayed. The EPG image in the recommended program selection mode adds, to the EPG in the normal program selection mode, a recommendation index input window in which a recommendation index input by the user for the selected broadcast program is displayed, wherein a recommendation information including the recommendation index can be exported to an external apparatus which is accessible by

another user. In the EPG image in the recommended program import mode, the program information for the broadcast program recommended by another user is notably displayed on the EPG image in the normal program selection mode.

Claim 52 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 48.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 48 and 52, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of controlling an image generation unit so as to generate a plurality of EPG images with a same EPG screen layout according to at least three operation modes comprising a normal program selection mode, a recommended program selection mode and a recommended program import mode, wherein the EPG image in the normal program selection mode comprises a two-dimensional program table and a selected program window in which program information relating to a broadcast program selected by a user on the two-dimensional program table is displayed, wherein the EPG image in the recommended program selection mode adds, to the EPG in the normal program selection mode, a recommendation index input window in which a recommendation index input by the user for the selected broadcast program is displayed, wherein a recommendation information including the recommendation index can be exported to an external apparatus which is accessible by another user, and wherein in the EPG image in the recommended program import mode, the program information for the broadcast program recommended by another user is notably displayed on the EPG image in the normal program selection mode.

In this regard, Finseth is seen to disclose that a viewer inputs a personal comment and review concerning a TV program to share the input information among

viewers, and that shared favorite information is used in forming a program guide for displaying a program in which the other viewer is interested. However, Finseth is not seen to disclose controlling an image generation unit so as to generate a plurality of EPG images with a same EPG screen layout according to at least three operation modes comprising a normal program selection mode, a recommended program selection mode and a recommended program import mode, wherein the EPG image in the normal program selection mode comprises a two-dimensional program table and a selected program window in which program information relating to a broadcast program selected by a user on the two-dimensional program table is displayed, wherein the EPG image in the recommended program selection mode adds, to the EPG in the normal program selection mode, a recommendation index input window in which a recommendation index input by the user for the selected broadcast program is displayed, wherein a recommendation information including the recommendation index can be exported to an external apparatus which is accessible by another user, and wherein in the EPG image in the recommended program import mode, the program information for the broadcast program recommended by another user is notably displayed on the EPG image in the normal program selection mode.

Maissel is merely seen to disclose a subscriber unit for use in a television system that includes an intelligent agent that produces a program guide which includes customized program schedule information based on a viewer preference profile. However, Maissel is not seen to disclose anything that, when combined with Finseth, would have resulted in at least the features of Claims 48 and 52 described above.

Accordingly, independent Claims 48 and 52 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied art for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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